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12 AWI

16/10/12

**Reflection on the Arts**

**Question 1**

Art can show us as many things about a culture, place or thing as a text does. It can also identify many aesthetic features in one piece.

To understand how important art is in understanding history, we have to go back to early prehistoric times as an example. “ The earliest indication of workmanship including art goes back around 40,000 years ago”.(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistoric_art>) . In seeing what type of creations the people from this time period came up with, we can identify a few factors or characteristics of that time period. For example, if they carved something out of volcanic rock, we can identify that there was a volcanic eruption at some point in time, as well as the ‘technology’ to carve it in the first place. Judging on what they carve or create, we can also tell what type of an environment they lived in, what type of plants and animals were around and so on. Another example would be a historical painting, such as one depicting a war. Based on the artist, the painting can tell us a lot about the scene, such as what emotions were involved, maybe also the weapons that they were using, and it may include some important historical figure heads. Sometimes, art portrays things that have happened in history which can’t be explained in a textbook.

As well as educating us about the past in some aspects, we can also learn about how important art was in the time specified. One piece art can tell us one story, but it can bring with it many different emotions.

**Question 2**

The arts help us see the world through new eyes in a few different ways; identifying intentions, quality and what is considered to be art.

Just as we spent so much time in class discussing the intentions of the artists and what type of reaction they expected from their audience, we can apply this to media and television these days. Especially things like advertising which could lead us into quite a bit of trouble if not thought about logically. People tend to rush to buy things straight after they’ve seen the advert for a product. After analysing an artist’s intention, we can then apply that type of thinking to the world. Personally I feel that I think more critically about things, now that we discussed and analysed what quality in art truly is. Not only does this mindset of critical thinking mindset deal with art, but also many other subjects, including science and maths. In a society where so many people think that something they created in 2 minutes it’s important to be able to identify what is art and what is not. This develops an evaluating skill in us, not only pertaining to art, but everything which needs to be verified as something beneficial to society.

Art shows us that it’s important to think about what you’re doing, and what you expect to happen as a result. It also shows us that we have the power to evaluate according to taste, standards and experience.